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Letter dated 4 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the abolition of the death penalty in Cyprus, issued on 28 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 116 (a).

(Signed) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-28120 (E) 070200 070200

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the abolition of the death penalty in Cyprus, issued on 28 January 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the recent decision of the Republic of Cyprus to ratify Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the abolition of the death penalty.

This is a significant step forward, reinforcing Cyprus' commitment to the promotion of human rights.

The European Union reaffirms its support for the Council of Europe's position calling for the universal abolition of the death penalty and insisting on the maintenance, in the meantime, of existing moratoria on executions in Europe.